

James C. Kearney, III has given us a model of true dedication and virtue.

SPECIALIST RAYMOND L. WHITE

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Elwood, IN. Specialist Raymond L. White, 22 years old, died on November 12 during an ambush in Baghdad, Iraq. Choosing not to hide within the safety of the armored Humvee in which he was riding, Raymond returned fire. During this selfless attempt to protect other members of his company, Raymond was shot. With his entire life before him, Raymond risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

A 2001 graduate of Frankton Junior-Senior High School, Raymond went on to attend the New Mexico Military Institute for 2 years before following a long-standing family tradition of joining the military. According to friends and loved ones, Raymond was pleased to follow in the footsteps of his father, uncle and great-uncle. His mother Sharon recalled to the Indianapolis Star a time when she asked Raymond why he wanted to go to Iraq. He responded simply, "Well, Mom, it's my patriotic duty."

Raymond was the thirty-sixth Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. This brave young soldier leaves behind his parents, Sharon and Henry White and his brothers, Henry, Daniel and Jessie.

Today, I join Raymond's family, his friends and the entire Elwood community in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Raymond, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Raymond was known for his dedication to family and his love of country. When looking back on Raymond's life, family friend Don Cox told the Indianapolis Star that "He grew up to be a very fine young man." His father, Henry, recounted to the Indianapolis Star the description of Raymond's heroic efforts that he received from his commander, highlighting the fact that his son had died in the same fashion in which he had lived. "He always put others first," Henry said. Today and always, Raymond will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Raymond's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we

cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Raymond's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Raymond L. White in the official record of the United States Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Raymond's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Raymond.

FIRST LIEUTENANT EDWARD IWAN

Mr. HAGEL. I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of Edward Iwan of Albion, NE, a 1LT in the United States Army. First Lieutenant Iwan was killed on November 12, 2004 in Fallujah, Iraq when a rocket-propelled grenade hit his Army vehicle. He was 28 years old.

First Lieutenant Iwan grew up on his family's farm in Albion and enlisted in the U.S. Army upon graduation from Albion High School in 1994. After serving 3 years, he joined the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln where he earned a degree in criminal justice and received a commission in the U.S. Army. At Lincoln, he was a leader in the ROTC program. First Lieutenant Iwan was a platoon leader in the Army's 2nd Infantry Division who will be remembered as a loyal soldier who had a strong sense of duty, honor, and love of country. Thousands of brave Americans like 1LT Iwan are currently serving in Iraq.

Lieutenant Iwan is survived by his parents, Donna and Kenneth Iwan of Albion and two sisters, Ginger and Kate. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time. The United States of America is proud of Edward Iwan's service and mourns his loss.

For his service, bravery and sacrifice, I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring 1LT Edward Iwan.

RETIREMENT OF SENATORS

SENATOR JOHN EDWARDS

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I want to pay tribute to Senator JOHN

EDWARDS and acknowledge his dedication to fighting for the middle class.

Senator EDWARDS, the son of a mill worker, was the first in his family to go to college. He then went on to law school where he met his wife, Elizabeth. Following his graduation from law school, he earned a reputation as one of the best trial attorneys in the country, taking on the causes of those who had suffered serious tragedies as a result of the negligence or malfeasance of others.

Elected in 1998, Senator EDWARDS has served just one term in the Senate, but he made a mark in a number of areas. First and foremost, he was a lead advocate for a Patients' Bill of Rights. From his background helping families that had suffered injuries at the hands of our health care system, Senator EDWARDS brought a passionate understanding of the need to hold health insurance companies accountable when their decisions led to serious injuries or death. More importantly, he championed changes in rules that would prevent these adverse outcomes in the first place. His dedication to this cause paid off in 2001, when the Senate finally passed the Patients' Bill of Rights.

Senator EDWARDS also made a big contribution on education policy. He was an early voice in favor of education reform, and worked to provide additional resources to help local schools achieve higher standards. As a co-chair of the Senate Rural Education Caucus, I saw first hand his work to support funding to meet rural school needs like the Rural Education Achievement Program and to make certain that the unique challenges for rural schools in complying with the No Child Left Behind Act are recognized.

Senator EDWARDS also, of course, distinguished himself in running for President and serving as the Democratic nominee to be Vice President. His concern about our country fracturing into "Two Americas"—one wealthy and privileged, the other increasingly left behind—resonated with millions of Americans.

Senator EDWARDS is leaving this body. But I am confident he will not turn his back on public service and look forward to his continued contribution to our Nation's political debate. Working with the Senator from North Carolina has been a joy, and we wish him and his wife a happy and health future.

SENATOR DON NICKLES

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to and acknowledge how much I will miss Senator DON NICKLES in the United States Senate.

Since joining the Senate in 1980, Senator NICKLES has been a forceful advocate for smaller and smarter government, while at the same time tenaciously fighting for the interests of the people of Oklahoma. In a body filled largely with lawyers and career politicians, Senator NICKLES brought a small businessman's perspective to the legislative table. Throughout his career he

spoke from personal experience about the need to relieve unnecessary burdens on our Nation's small businesses.

Personally, I have come to know Senator NICKLES well from our joint service on the Budget and Finance Committees. Although we were often on the opposite side of policy debates, he was always a straight-shooter, a gentleman, and a pleasure to work with. In areas where we disagreed, he was a formidable and articulate advocate for his position. In areas where we agreed, he was a powerful and determined ally. I am proud to say that, despite this era of too much partisan division, I consider Senator NICKLES a good friend. His ability to maintain a civil and respectful tone and demeanor in even the toughest policy disputes has exemplified the finest traditions of the Senate.

In his role as Budget Chairman, I am particularly grateful for the graciousness and respect with which he treated me and my staff. His efforts to strengthen the Budget Committee and the budget process will be an important part of his legacy in this body.

I have been honored to serve with Senator DON NICKLES. I join my colleagues in wishing the Senator and his family all the best in the future and in paying tribute to his tremendous contributions to the Senate and our Nation. We will miss him.

SENATOR PETER FITZGERALD

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I want to pay tribute to Senator PETER FITZGERALD as he prepares to leave the United States Senate.

For the past 6 years, Senator FITZGERALD has done important work as a member of the Agriculture Committee, on which we had the pleasure of serving together. Senator FITZGERALD supported the creation of a commission to investigate changes to the Federal

farm payment system. We share the belief that small, family-owned farms should receive adequate assistance from the Federal Government, and the creation of this commission has helped to ensure this goal.

I am also grateful for the support that Senator FITZGERALD has shown for legislation I have introduced related to the tax treatment of leasehold improvements. He and I understand the need to modernize business infrastructure by shortening the cost recovery period for changes that commercial landlords make in space rented to tenants. By reducing the cost recovery period, the expense of making these improvements would fall more into line with the economics of commercial lease transactions, and more building owners would be able to adapt their buildings to fit the needs of today's business tenants. I thank Senator FITZGERALD for his strong support of this important initiative.

Senator FITZGERALD also recognizes the importance of improving the overall health of Americans, and has shown this through the introduction of his Healthy Lifestyles Act. Encouraging physical activity is an essential component in the fight against obesity, and is an important tool in preventative health care. I commend Senator FITZGERALD for his work in this area.

More generally, Senator FITZGERALD has proven himself to be a dedicated public servant who has served the State of Illinois and the country with honor. Today, I join my colleagues in paying tribute to Senator FITZGERALD and wish him well in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO OHIO VETERANS

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, on May 29, 2004—coinciding with the dedication

of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC—World War II veterans, their families, and their friends gathered at the Don Gentile American Legion Post 532 in Columbus, OH to honor their comrades who fought bravely in World War II.

Fifty veterans attended the service where they were honored by a crowd of more than 500. Guest speakers included Columbus Dispatch columnist Mike Hardin, Post 532 commander Ray Papp, and Isabella Gentile Beitman, the Post namesake's widow. Memorabilia was displayed throughout Post 532, area ROTC units paraded, and the Columbus Symphony Orchestra provided the music. Following the memorial garden dedication, military planes conducted a fly-by. Additionally, each veteran received a framed certificate with the Memorial picture and an angel pin, signifying how our veterans are truly guardian angels.

The Post 532 members' hard work made this service possible, and I would like to personally thank auxiliary secretary, Gladys Caudill, who registered more than 300 World War II veterans for their inclusion in the National Registry. These efforts and the dedication ceremony are fitting reminders of the sacrifices these brave men and women made for our freedom—sacrifices that have shaped all of our lives, our children's lives, and the lives of our grandchildren. I thank them for all they have done for us so that we may continue to enjoy Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—all because of their efforts some 60 years ago.

I would like to honor the members of Post 532 by printing their names in the RECORD. They selflessly fought for our Nation in World War II, I remember them and honor them at this time.

Members of Post 532	Branch	Hometown
Acocella, Guydon	Navy	Columbus, OH
Albrecht, Richard	Navy	Columbus, OH
Arrasmith, James	Navy	Columbus, OH
Bailey, Carl	Air Force	Columbus, OH
Barker, Robert	Army	Fairmont, WV
Barloe, Oral Jr.	Air Force	Logan, WV
Bauer, Chester	Air Force	Albert, TX
Bauman, Ray	Army	Lancaster, OH
Beitman, Jesse	Air Force	Baltimore, MD
Berg, Omer	Navy	Columbus, OH
Boggs, John	Navy	Hilliard, OH
Bricker, Paul	Navy	Uhrichsville, OH
Brown, Harry	Army	Barnesville, OH
Bryant, Jack	Army	Columbus, OH
Buhacevich, Milton	Navy	Columbus, OH
Burchfield, Leo	Air Force	Columbus, OH
Callarik, George	Army	Bridgeport, OH
Callif, George	Marines	Columbus, OH
Carpenter, Elmer Ellworth	Army	Hopewell, KY
Carter, Clyde	Navy	Columbus, OH
Cavanaugh, Thomas	Navy	Columbus, OH
Chase, Thomas	Army	Columbus, OH
Compton, Edward	Navy	Columbus, OH
Connor, Phillip	Navy	Logan, OH
Cox, Raymond	Army	Wash. Ct. House, OH
Cramer, Charles	Air Force	Columbus, OH
Crites, Robert	Coast Guard	Columbus, OH
Curtiss, Richard (deceased)	Navy	Columbus, OH
Davis, Delbert (Nick)	Navy	Thurman, OH
DelCeillo, Vito	Army	Columbus, OH
Delia, Joseph	Marines	New York, NY
Diebold, Robert	Marines	Newark, OH
Dillon, Howard	Navy	Columbus, OH
Donnelly, William Jr.	Army	Junction City, OH
Douglas, Russell	Army	New Lexington, OH
Driscoll, Ray	Navy	Columbus, OH
Dymek, Joseph	Army	Columbus, OH
Edwards, Harold	Navy	Columbus, OH
Eilerman, Cletus	Navy	Sidney, OH
Eiselstein, Jack	Army	Columbus, OH